

Sunday, June 26, 2005



LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

The 25th National Veterans Wheelchair Games take place all this week (June 27 through July 1) at the Minneapolis Convention Center and other area venues. The Games, a great patriotic, sports, and health/fitness story, **are the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world.** The event is co-presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America. **Actress Bo Derek**, National Honorary Chairperson of VA's National Rehabilitation Special Events, will hand out medals and visit the veterans throughout the week. For media information about the Games or to arrange for interviews, call the National Veterans Wheelchair Games Media Center (at the Convention Center), at (612) 335-6668 or 335-6669. For continuing updates during the week, visit the Games web site at www.wheelchairgames.org.

Sunday, June 26, 2005 – Veterans Arrive in Minneapolis!

- More than 500 disabled veterans from across the United States, Puerto Rico and Great Britain will arrive in Minneapolis all day to get ready for the Games. Several veterans from Operation Iraqi Freedom are joining the competition for the first time.

Monday, June 27, 2005 – Here Come the Veterans!

- **Games Kick-off/Wheelchair Basketball Exhibition**, Peavey Plaza, 11:45 am – 12:30 pm. The Kick-off includes a welcome to the city, followed by a spirited wheelchair basketball exhibition. Army Reserve Specialist Christine Tollison who served in Iraq for one year in 2004 and 2005 and was also featured two times on the David Letterman show, will sing the national anthem. Great sports action to kick off the Games!

- **Opening Ceremonies, Convention Center, 6:00 pm** – Top VA and PVA leaders will address the athletes. Athletes parade in with their teams from across the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Great Britain, in colorful Team attire. After the torch is lit, a welcome reception follows with food and entertainment.

Tuesday, June 28, 2005 – Competitors Test Their Mettle!

- **Bowling**, South Town Bowl (IV-V); Eden Prairie Bowl (II-III), 8 am; Adaptive bowling begins at 1:00 pm at both alleys. Bowling is a popular wheelchair sport, with some excellent action!

- **Softball**, Convention Center, Halls B+C, 1:00 & 3:00 pm – **“Take me out to the Ballgame!”** Great action sport for wheelchairs – come watch some real All Stars!

- **Quad Rugby Clinic** – Convention Center, Halls B+C, 4pm

- **Basketball**, Convention Center, Halls B+C, 6:30 & 8:00 pm – Great basketball action, colliding chairs, cheering crowds!

- **Quad Rugby**, Convention Center, Halls B+C, 6:30 & 8:00 pm – **High-action team sport for quadriplegic athletes.**

- **Other Events:** 9-Ball (8:00 am & 1:00 pm, Convention Center, Hall D); Air Guns (10:00 am, 1:00, 3:00 & 7:00 pm, Convention Center, Hall D).

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2. National Veterans Wheelchair Games Week at a Glance, continued

Wednesday, June 29, 2005 – Wheelchair Vets Say “Yes” to the Challenge of the Games!

- **Field Events**, McMurray Field, 8:00, 9:30 & 10:30 am. Events include shot-put, discus, javelin and the club throw. Field events for quadriplegic athletes are at 8:00 am; others follow.
- **Power Soccer**, Convention Center, Halls B+C, 10:30 am. Soccer for power wheelchairs.
- **Slalom**, Convention Center, Hall B, 1:00, 3:00 & 7:00 pm. High emotion, lots of action as wheelchairs go for the gold in this unique obstacle course competition. Motorized wheelchairs compete at 3:00 & 7:00 pm. **Don't miss this one!**
- **Slalom Demonstration**, Mall of America, Sam Goody Central; 5pm. **Join us for an evening of fun and excitement at the Mall, when five Games athletes show Twin Cities shoppers how it's done!**
- **Swimming**, University of Minnesota, 6:30 pm. Lots of action, determination, and spirit as swimmers (most with no leg movement) compete in the pool.
- **Weightlifting**, Convention Center, Hall C, 7:00 pm. **Watch as some of our wheelchair competitors lift over 400 lbs.!**
- **Other Events:** Air Guns (8:00 & 10:00 am, 1:00 & 3:00 pm, Convention Center, Hall D); Table Tennis (1:00 & 3:00 pm, Convention Center, Hall D); 9-Ball (1:00 pm, Convention Center, Hall D); Trap Shooting (1:00 pm, Metro Gun Club).

Thursday, June 30, 2005 – “Kids Day” at the Games

- **Kids Day Activities, Special event for youth**, Convention Center, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm – Local youth (many disabled) meet the veterans, practice events, volunteer and cheer for the slalom competitors. Kids also attend all afternoon and evening events today.
- **Track Events**, University of St. Thomas, 8:00 & 9:30 am, 2:00 pm – Great action, high-tech wheelchairs and colorful attire make this a must-see!
- **Powerchair 220 Race**, University of St. Thomas, 8:00 am. Track event just for motorized wheelchairs, who will speed around the track to see who has the fastest wheelchair.
- **Powerchair Relay**, University of St. Thomas, 8:00 am. A great, fun, exhibition event just for motorized wheelchairs.
- **Slalom**, Convention Center, 8:00 & 10:00 am. High emotion, lots of action as wheelchairs go for the gold in this unique obstacle course competition. **Paraplegics compete today – don't miss this one!**
- **Power Soccer**, Convention Center, Halls B+C; 1:00, 3:00 & 8:00 pm.
- **Basketball**, Convention Center, 6:30 & 8:00 pm. Lots of fast action and loud cheers for the winners!
- **Quad Rugby**, Convention Center, 6:30 pm. **High-action team sport for quadriplegic athletes.**
- **Other Events:** Table Tennis (8:00 & 10:00 am, Convention Center); Golf Exhibition (1:00 pm, Braemar Golf Course).

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3. National Veterans Wheelchair Games Week at a Glance, continued

Friday, July 1, 2005 – Finals Day – What a Week This Has Been!

- **Softball Finals**, Convention Center, Games 5 & 6 begin at 8:00 am. Consolation and Championship Games begin at 10:00 am.
- **Slalom “Super G,”** Convention Center, 9:00 am – The top slalom winners challenge themselves even more. This one will leave you breathless!
- **Power Soccer Finals**, Convention Center Hall C , Championship Game at 3:00 pm.
- **Quad Rugby Finals**, Convention Center Hall C, Championship Game begins at 1:00 pm – Don’t miss this inspiring final event as the top medal winners are named.
- **Basketball Finals**, Convention Center Hall C, Consolation Game is at 1:00 pm, and Championship Game is at 3:00 pm – **Lots of fast action and loud cheers for the winners!**
- **Power Soccer Finals**, Convention Center, Hall C, 3:00 pm.
- **Closing Ceremonies and Banquet**, Convention Center Hall D, 7:00 pm – The torch is passed to next year’s hosts from Anchorage. Top VA and PVA officials will also congratulate the athletes. A special video highlighting the past week in Minneapolis will close out the 2005 National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

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